

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 278303750	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US 02/12562	International filing date (day/month/year) 22.04.2002	Priority date (day/month/year) 22.04.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B60N2/06		
Applicant JOHNSON CONTROLS TECHNOLOGY COMPANY et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
  - This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 8 sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I  Basis of the opinion
  - II  Priority
  - III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV  Lack of unity of invention
  - V  Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI  Certain documents cited
  - VII  Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 21.11.2003	Date of completion of this report 09.08.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office - Glitschner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840	Authorized Officer Petersson, M Telephone No. +49 30 25901-518



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US 02/12562

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-15 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-56 filed with telefax on 12.05.2004

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US 02/12562

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-56
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-56
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-56
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP117131 A2

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and discloses (see page 5, line 3-page 7, line 35):

An article attachment system (see fig.1, a slide mechanism for a vehicle seat), or a sliding floor console, for a vehicle and a system for attaching one or more articles to a vehicle portion and a method of providing a sliding console system in a vehicle interior comprising:

an elongated rail member (2) adapted for attach to the floor portion of the vehicle interior; the rail member (2) defining at least one partially enclosed space having at least one slide interface surface and a plurality of openings (30) adapted for slidable engagement

a bracket (1) operable engaging the elongated rail member (2) and adapted for mounting at least one article (a seat, see page 5, lines 3-10),

a positioning device (30,31,34) operable engaging the bracket (1) and having at least one extension (31) adapted to move between an engaged position (fig.5) adapted for securing the article to the elongated rail member (2) and a released position adapted for moving the article relative to the elongated rail member (2)

The subject-matter of claims 1,21,32,42 and 50 differs from this known state of the art in that:

The rail member have projections and defines an enclosed space, with at least one interior slide surface slidably engaging the bracket glide, and

having a first electrical conductor, and the bracket engaging the rail member with at least one non-rotational glide and being adapted to couple a console and having a second electrical conductor and

an electrification system providing electricity from the rail member to an article mounted to the bracket/or the console and

at least one bracket arm extending into the partially enclosed space, said arm includes a low friction glide to engage the slide surface in said enclosed space and where the rail member have at least one extension projecting at least partially over the slide surface of the at least partially concealed space.

The problem to be solved by the present invention is seen as:

An improved vehicle interior rail member with at least one glide surface for a positionable bracket, to which a console and/or an article which also could need electric powering is/ are attached, where the glide interface are not protected from contaminants or other foreign material which may interfere with the movement of the bracket and proper working of the positioning system.

Claims 1,21,32,42 and 52 form a single inventive concept and solves this problem: With a rail member for a vehicle interior with its sliding interface to a bracket, and if needed electrical contacts, in a concealed space integrated in the rail member itself to thereby ensure protection from dirt and thereby proper working of the sliding interface and the electrical supply.

Claims 2-20 are dependent upon claim 1 and claims 22-31 are dependent upon claim 21 and claims 33-41 are dependent upon claim 32 and claims 43-49 are dependent upon claim 42 and claims 51-56 are dependent upon claim 50. Thereby fulfills all these dependent claims the criteria of PCT regarding novelty and inventive step.

Claims 1-56 are industrial applicable.

Remarks: Should the applicant enter the European Phase is it suggested ,for clarity reasons, to cover the invention with one independent claim, written in two-part form in the same category (Rule 29(2) EPC seem not to be the case here), and provide all technical features in the claims with reference signs, see Rule 29 1(b),7, EPC.